

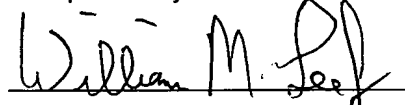
Additional basis for independent claims 31 and 32 can be found on page 8, lines 13-25 and in figure 4.

The patents of Dobras, Lemelson and Wang relate to bar codes. The patent of Gunn relates to a method of marking mail. Antognini relates to forming a pattern by etching. None of these patents relate to labelling of "an optoelectronic component carrier" (this application, claim 24). Due to the size constraints of an optoelectronic component carrier, typically a few millimetres square (this application, page 7, lines 18-19) with electronic circuitry and components on the surface, it is necessary to use an extremely compact labelling method. A typical label is less than 500 $\mu$ m square (this application, page 7, line 24) and in this area it is required to encode data representing "a serial number for the carrier and all the components mounted on it" (this application, page 7 lines 28-29). Thus, it is submitted that the claims, as now cast, clearly distinguish from the references.

In view of the fact that all the Examiner's comments have been addressed, further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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